



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

D3  
3-4  
#14c

In re patent application of:

Branch et al.

Serial No. 09/870,023

Filed 5/30/01

INTERBODY FUSION GRAFTS  
AND INSTRUMENTATION

)  
) Examiner  
)  
)  
) Group Art Unit  
) 3731  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on.

February 13, 2003

Date of Deposit

James B. Myers, Jr.

Name of Registered Representative

*James B. Myers Jr*

Signature

February 13, 2003

Date of Signature

**RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

RECEIVED  
FEB 25 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

In response to the Office Action dated September 13, 2002, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and consideration of the accompanying remarks.. Applicants filed concurrent with this Response a Request for an Extension of Time to respond this Office Action. Additionally, please provide any further extensions of time that may be necessary and charge any fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but do not include any payment of issue fees that are or may become due.

02/24/2003 CNGUYEN 00000073 233030 09870023

01 FC:1201 84.00 CH  
02 FC:1202 306.00 CH

**AMENDMENTS**

Please amend the following claims:

Sub DT 1. (Amended) A spinal fusion implant, comprising:  
a bone portion having an upper bone engaging surface, a lower bone engaging surface, a first sidewall and an opposite second sidewall extending between said upper and lower bone engaging